

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /019 W

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R 231012Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1567

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BMEP, EIND, EINV, ECRE: KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT INTEREST IN REGIONAL STEEL MILL

REF: A) KUWAIT 4554 (NOTAL) B) STATE 240993

1. RECENTLY US STEEL ENGINEERS PRES. FRED DUDDERAR AND VP ROBERT SABA, VISITED KUWAIT WHILE ON MIDEAST TOUR TO GAUGE KUWAITI INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN A STEEL MILL PROJECT SITED OUTSIDE KUWAIT (SEE REFTEL). AS RESULT THEIR MEETINGS WITH SEVERAL KEY GOK OFFICIALS, THEY WERE ENCOURAGED TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER AND SAID THEY MAY WELL PREPARE A PROPOSAL TO BE DIRECTLY PRESENTED TO CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER WHO ULTIMATELY WOULD HAVE TO GIVE APPROVAL TO PROJECT. THEY HAD NO FIXED IDEA AS TO WHERE SUCH A PLANT SHOULD BE LOCATED BUT WOULD OBVIOUSLY CONSIDER A LOWER GULF STATE, OR, FAILING THAT, PERHAPS, A PLANT IN SOUTH ASIA.

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2. COMMENT: IN EFFECT REJECTION OF LOCAL STEEL MILL PROJECT

IMPROVES THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR USS ENGINEERS GET WORK WITH KUWAITIS SINCE JOHN MILES, A UK CONSULTANT, HAD CONTRACT WITH LOCAL INVESTORS TO DESIGN KUWAIT MILL. UNDOUBTEDLY, GIVEN RIGHT CONDITIONS KUWAITIS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING EQUITY IN STEEL PLANT MEETING LOCAL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS, SINCE THIS APPROACH HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF NOT REQUIRING COUNTRY TO IMPORT MANPOWER (IN EFFECT, THEY WOULD EXPORT THIS PROBLEM TO ANOTHER GULF STATE). USS ENGINEERS, PROBABLY ONLY COMPANY PRESENTLY PURSUING THIS OPPORTUNITY ALTHOUGH IT CONCEIVABLE OTHER COMPANIES OR COUNTRIES PLANNING STEEL MILLS BUT SHORT ON CASH MAY SEEK KUWAITI FINANCING OR INVESTMENT. IF USS ENGINEERS PRESENTS PROPOSAL, WE BELIEVE IT WILL RECEIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND PLAN FULLY SUPPORT THEM IF CALLED UPON TO DO SO.

STOLTZFUS

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Message Attributes

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